

Attachment B — National Historic Preservation Act Correspondence

- September 9, 2002, Reclamation's letter to Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and their October 17, 2002, concurrence



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

PN-6511
PRJ-26.00

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

SEP 09 2002

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CONTROL #	2-5969
FOLDER #	20062

Dr. Leland Gilsen
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State Parks and Recreation Department
1115 Commercial Street NE, Suite 2
Salem OR 97301-1012

Subject: Test Excavations, Tyler Creek Wasteway Access Road Right-of-Way

Dear Dr. Gilsen:

In a letter dated May 4, 2001, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) notified you of our intention to develop an access to Tyler Creek Wasteway, and that three archeological sites (35JA492, JA493, and JA494) had been recorded within the access right-of-way (ROW). In May 2001, Reclamation awarded a test excavation contract to Heritage Research Associates (HRA). In June, 2002, HRA completed the test excavations, working under state permit AP-477. The testing methodology and results are described in the enclosed report entitled "Evaluation of Three Archaeological Sites in the Tyler Creek Wasteway Access Easement, Jackson County, Oregon."

As the sites are on private land, the test excavations were confined to the ROW corridor, which is a 60-foot wide easement. All of the following discussions about site eligibility address only the portion of each site lying within that easement ROW. All three of the sites extend beyond the ROW.

HRA has recommended that the portion of the three sites within the ROW be determined "not eligible" to the National Register of Historic Places. Reclamation agrees with that assessment. At site 35JA492, subsurface materials was largely confined to a very small area consistent with the surface artifact concentration, and all material was confined to the top 10 cm of soil. A projectile point mid-section was noted during survey, and was of a style commonly used during the last 2,200 years. No features were noted. Most all cultural materials found were unmodified flakes. The site appears to be a low-density surface artifact scatter with little potential to yield additional information. We ask that you concur that this site is not eligible.

Site 35JA493 is located on a small terrace, and may be the west edge of a larger site. Testing indicates that, at least within the ROW, the site is a rather sparse lithic scatter with most of the

material confined to the surface and top 20 cm of soil. Only lithic debitage and two square nails were found. The site appears to have been plowed in the past. The site deposits within the ROW appear to have little potential to yield significant information that would increase our understanding of prehistoric life in the area or region. The two square nails do not appear to be associated with an identifiable early historic period feature within the ROW. We ask that you concur that the portion of site 35JA493 located within Reclamation's ROW is not eligible to the National Register.

Site 35JA494 again appears to be a small section of what may be a larger site. Much more cultural material, extending to a greater depth, was found at this site. However, again the material was essentially limited to unmodified lithic debitage; 236 flakes were recovered, one core, one biface fragment, and one animal bone fragment. There was no evidence of features, either prehistoric or historic period in origin. Also, the site appears to be rather disturbed within the ROW. Mottled soils were interpreted to mean that some leveling or soil redistribution had occurred at the site. This interpretation is supported by discovery of a glass fragment between 10 and 20 cm below surface and a button between 30 and 40 cm below surface. Although material density indicates that this site may have significant deposits outside of the ROW, it appears that deposits within the ROW have limited physical integrity and lack the kind and variety of materials that could provide significant new information about area history or prehistory. We ask that you concur that the portion of site 35JA494 located within the ROW is not eligible to the National Register.

Reclamation will be using the ROW with only limited modifications. Principally, we must place a culvert in the creek crossing and do some amount of bank cutting to allow passage across Schoolhouse Creek. This will occur within the ROW immediately south of 35JA493. Although the test excavations indicate the site is not eligible within the ROW, Reclamation will monitor initial soil excavation at that location to ensure immediate detection in the unlikely event of discovery of potentially significant subsurface deposits that were not revealed during test excavations. We do not anticipate any construction in the ROW across 35JA494, other than sinking several post holes to allow installation of a gate at the road. If any construction occurs in the vicinity of 35JA492 it is likely to be limited additional leveling of the existing old road track through that area.

If you have questions, please call Lynne MacDonald at (208) 378-5316 or contact her via e-mail at lmacdonald@pn.usbr.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Kerry Whitford
Acting Manager, Ecosystems Analysis

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NOTED
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Enclosure